



*Protecting
the living
environment
of the
Pacific Rim*

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Public Comments for the State of California Climate Change Action Team

To: California Environmental Protection Agency
c/o Eileen Wenger Tutt
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About Pacific Environment: Pacific Environment is a San Francisco-based organization dedicated to protecting the living environment of the Pacific Rim. Our work extends from advocating for clean energy here in California to protecting forests in the Russian Far East and monitoring water pollution in China. We are also the lead facilitators of the coalition Ratepayers for Affordable Clean Energy (RACE), a grassroots focused organization dedicated to supporting clean energy initiatives in the California.

Comments to Climate Action Team: Thank you for your commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses, and for this opportunity for public input. If California is successful in attaining its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, our state will set an example for the world to follow. We look forward to the day when aggressive actions like the ones we see afoot in California leads to a world where we can all breathe a little easier, and where our climate is stable and predictable.

In that regard, we welcome the state's commitments to greenhouse gas emissions as they are spelled out in the 2005 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR), and detailed in the existing draft of the Climate Action Team Report. We also welcome the CPUC's unanimous resolution that directs its staff to develop an investor-owned utility greenhouse gas standard "that is no higher than the greenhouse gas emission levels of a combined-cycle natural gas turbine." We agree that this is a realistic interim step on the road to an energy portfolio that is primarily fossil-free.

However, we are very concerned that there is a significant disconnect between these goals and current trends in our state's energy policy. The CPUC, acting in concert with the California Energy Commission, is simultaneously working to make Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) a major component of our state's energy future. These two goals are contradictory. The process of extracting natural gas from foreign sources, transporting it to an export facility, gasifying it, transporting it thousands of miles overseas, and re-gasifying it in North America carries a heavy "energy penalty".

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